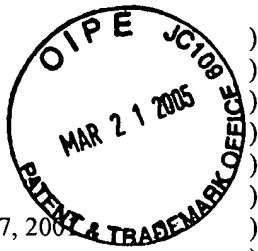


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirano et al. )  
 Conf. No. 7774 )  
 Serial No. 09/965,615 )  
 Filed: September 27, 2004 )  
 For: LOAD/UNLOAD OPERATION CONTROL )  
 METHOD AND STORAGE APPARATUS )  
 Art Unit: 2651 )  
 Examiner: Negron, Daniell L. )



*I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.*

3/18/05

Date  
F-CLASS.WCM

Appr. February 20, 1998

*Joseph P. Fox*  
 Registration No. 41,760  
 Attorney for Applicant

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the C.F.R. §1.97(b) time period, but before the mail date of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (whichever occurs first), with either:

- (a) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); or
- (b) the \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

(X) Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):

(X) The enclosed references were cited in a Communication issued by the Japanese Patent Office (copy enclosed). Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

( ) Applicant(s) hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

( ) Enclosed is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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 Registration No. 41,760

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket No.: 0941.65876	Serial No.: 09/965,615
	Applicant:: Hirano et al.	
	Filing Date: September 27, 2001	Group: 2651

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2000-021103	Jan. 21, 2000	Japan			Abs.	
	05-210419	Aug. 20, 1993	Japan			Abs.	
	10-255419	Sep. 25, 1998	Japan			Abs.	
	07-334950	Dec. 22, 1995	Japan			Abs.	
	10-326470	Dec. 8, 1998	Japan			Abs.	

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner	Date Considered
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\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.